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We have a website! Please, check it out.
www.dickensstory.com

“Carrying Lambs”

Sometimes I enjoy reading Charles Spurgeon’s “Morning and Evening Devotional”. Last night, just before pillowing my head I decided to read it. Isaiah 40, the same passage in which we find the “wings as eagles” verse, contains the following gem, verse 11, “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom...”

How frequently we have seen our Shepherd “carry” us and manifest His love for us over the course of our furlough. We have needed to raise additional support and at the time of the writing of our letter five churches have added us to their missions ministry. God has protected us mightily on the roads as we have traveled. Once I vividly remember that only God could have kept a truck from running us off the road. God has used our supporting churches as well as new ones to shower us with love and affection showing their desire to have a part in our ministry. The children have been relatively healthy only catching colds, but with only one doctor visit, which was graciously supplied by a doctor in a supporting church. We have had rest periods along the way to allow us to maintain focus and do our best to glorify God. Daniel and the congregation continue to work there in Brazil and although there have been rough spots and bumps along the

way, they have not given up, the doors have not closed, in fact God is opening up new doors. Daniel was holding a Bible study with the professional soccer team in our city until the season ended, but the contacts and fruit from that may continue through eternity. God demonstrated



His provision in allowing us to change our return flight to a shorter and easier trip and even receiving a voucher for the difference in cost.

I have recently told the churches that we are in that we are counting the days until we board the plane July 17th. The reason is because we want to get back to the “lambs” that our Lord and Savior has entrusted to our care. Just as He is “carrying” us, He has given us the responsibility to help “carry” them.

You can be praying for our final meetings. If anyone would like to help we are needing close to \$ 6,000 for the children’s schooling which will provide what they need for basically the next 4 years. God has truly been “carrying” us in His bosom.

From Her Perspective

Cynthia Dickens



One day, I was listening to a group of girls playing nearby. They were each pretending to be a different Disney princess. Preening in their finery, they proudly proclaimed who they were . . . “I’m Cinderella.” “I’m Belle.” “I’m Sleeping Beauty” . . . and so on. They tried to convince one of the smallest in the group that she was going to play the part of Rapunzel, but instead she pointed to a lady sitting near them and grinned. With sweet, toddler-like, simplicity she said, “I you.” Despite the lack of a verb, her meaning was clear. Forget those silly princesses! She meant to emulate the lady she most admired right then. (And if that woman wasn’t flattered, I’m not sure what was wrong with her!) That little girl’s admiration will likely shift from person to person over the years, but at that moment, the object of her affections was sitting right there. She was determined to be like that lady, and how precious it was to see!

It made me think about how we should want to emulate Christ. It goes without saying that this world’s “hero standard” is quite lacking; but some of us do have good people surrounding us – great Christians whose lives are exemplary. There are many godly people to whom we can look, and there is nothing wrong with that. But the ultimate example for which we should strive is that of Christ Himself. He is worthy of our imitation in every area, at every moment, in every situation; and our obedience to His example is precious in God’s sight.

Special Prayer Requests

- TRAVELING MERCIES
- NEW SUPPORTING CHURCHES
- DANIEL AND THE CONGREGATION IN BELO JARDIM
- LABORERS FOR THE HARVEST FIELD

Those Little Dickens!



Stealing a moment to embrace while fixing lunch, Joel and I were interrupted by Aydan rushing in, “Daddy! Can I have more cheese balls?” Joel calmly replied, “You’ll have to wait. I’m hugging your mommy.” Although outwardly patient, we could hear the wheels turning in Aydan’s head and his inner foot tapping impatiently. He waited what he deemed an appropriately long moment and then queried dubiously, “How long is this going to take?” :D

